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Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People!

YANKEE GO HOME!

VIETNAM COURIER

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May 15,
1967

No 110

4th Year

NORTH VIETNAM

Up to May 12

1,883
U. S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

The L.A.F. fighters
aim at the enemy



SOUTH VIETNAM

U. S. AND PUPPET TROOPS HEAVY DE- FEATS IN QUANG TRI

**At Khe Sanh, the L. A. F.
Wiped Out 1,800 Enemies,
Including 1,500 GIs Be-
tween April 24 and May 5.**

**At Con Tien, Doc Mieu and
Dong Ha, They Put Out
of Action 1,000 Enemies
Including 600 GIs on the
Night of May 7.**

SOUTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE'S BIG SUCCESSES, U. S. AND QUISLINGS' HEAVY SETBACKS *

by Lieutenant General
VAN TIEN DUNG

III. BY THWARTING THE U. S. "RURAL
PACIFICATION" PLAN TO WIN OVER THE
PEOPLE AND ANNEX LAND, THE SOUTH
VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE HAVE SUC-
CEEDED IN DEFENDING, CONSOLIDATING
AND CONTINUALLY EXPANDING
THE LIBERATED ZONE

"second front", a counter-
guerrilla war and a key point
in the "strategy of balance"
devised by himself in an
attempt to win the war
of aggression in South Vietnam.

Along with big "search and
destroy" operations, the U. S.
launched hundreds of nibbling
raids in the countryside of South
Vietnam, attacking most
furiously the liberated areas
of the South Vietnamese
people, applying in the
course of raids their most
savage "kill all, burn
all, destroy all" policy. In
addition to a huge force of
puppet, U. S. and mercenaries
troops, they have also thrown

(Continued page 7)

In their local war or ag-
gression, the U. S. imperialists
have not only failed
misérable in their "search
and destroy" plan but even
more miserably in their "rural
pacification" program. AP repre-
sentative Peter Arnett
admitted on January 8, 1967
that the high "pacification"
in South Vietnam has been
a record of ambitious plans
going bankrupt and of the

immenseasurable energy of ta-
lented advisers vanishing
into thin air.

Rural pacification" is a
strategic objective of the
U. S. in South Vietnam aimed
at attacking in a compre-
hensive way the South Vietnamese
people's revolutionary
forces, cutting out their
guerrilla war in order to win
over the people and annex
land. Johnson called it: the

* See Vietnam Courier No 107

BEFORE an audience of some 200 eminent American physicians, U.S. President Johnson unveiled the bottom of his heart: "Why should we seek to withdraw our fellow human beings? Why shouldn't we negotiate? Why should people do what you are asking, meet these questions each morning, and each evening I again ponder over them?"

They want to negotiate. I want a political settlement. More than anybody else I want killing to stop in this world."

It was the 20th of April last, the second day of bombing, that Johnson himself had ordered the military part and the outskirts of Hanoi.

In the course of the night, I must stand up and wave a sign reading: "Vietnam". Far from being a mere chance occurrence, this little incident reflects the great ground swell which has begun to shake the system of lies of the White House and the Pentagon.

In late 1966 and early 1967, the United States mobilized in South Vietnam its heaviest forces ever seen in the two years of the local war: a 450,000-strong U.S. expeditionary corps, including the 50,000 men of the 7th Fleet, and almost the same number of men serving in Thailand and Camboja, in more than 30,000 troops of satellite countries: some half a million men of the imperialist forces. At the lowest estimate, a million troops. To this should be added 4,500 planes and helicopters of various types,

Mr. Johnson's Assertion

3,250 tanks and armoured vehicles, 200 heavy artillery pieces.

With such a war machine Westmoreland had hoped to achieve military victory and turn the tide of the war. To attain this end, he threw everything at once, with all his might, on one hand, to ensure success for big "search and destroy" operations, and on the other, to impose a political solution: "pacification".

The Pentagon confidently expected good results, and asserted that the war was "on the way to all hopes of winning the war.

Alas, once again the White House and the Pentagon were grossly mistaken. The troops, assisted by satellite and puppet troops, have been beaten hollow in all their operations, including the notorious Operation "Junction City", which involved 45,000 men in an area of less than 100 square miles. The "other war", timidly begun in the Melong river delta, has pitiably failed. For their retribution, the Americans, in South Vietnam, firmly held the initiative, have repeatedly launched smashing attacks on American bases, including that of Hanoi, raided; and recently on May 5, 1967, many factories and residential areas in the centre and on the outskirts of Hanoi were attacked by U.S. aircraft.

The American press rightly reported that Johnson had lifted the restrictions on the list of bombing targets. Escalation has now reached a particularly dangerous point and threatens to bring about the gravest consequences, for war responsibility rests solidly with the American government.

As everyone could expect, the Americans, who had not admitted defeat, Musil and short-sighted, have repudiated their original task: to produce and to fight.

In an editorial of May 2, the *Wall Street Journal* wrote, "The American people are not yet prepared to accept the reality of the war. They are still clinging to the illusion that Vietnam is lost in the terrible labyrinth with no way out... It is time to recognize that Vietnam has become a disease beyond cure."

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In the eyes of honest people, it is clear that the U.S. government is not only in order to cover up its war plans. It wants neither peace nor negotiations. It believes it could get out of the Vietnamese war with a minimum of a military solution, by means of its military strength. Let it be known: Vietnamese people are not to be beaten only after victory. They will inevitably defeat American aggression.

American planes only bombed Hanover, 10 miles to the southwest of Ha Dong (Reuter, May 6).

The utilization of C.B.U.'s against civilian objectives especially in the urban areas which has become current occurrences in the U.S. war escalation in North Vietnam is a particularly abominable fact. Very noteworthy, in the recent raid against Haiphong and Hanoi, including those of 300 lbs U.S. planes dropped C.B.U.'s with a particularly high yield and for most of which turn out consumer goods. The raid on April 20, 1967, has been witnessed by a number of foreign correspondents after the bombing. Replying to the *Voice of Vietnam* raid, co-reporter Dutch film-producer Marcelline Loridan said, "not only did the American imperialists bomb cities in a haphazard manner, but according to the U.S. can impair the people's morale. So, the Pentagon's allegation that the American planes had utilized C.B.U.'s (cluster bomb units) in North Vietnam, I believe, that they were directed against the population and not human beings".

Developing L.B. Johnson's swindle to the effect that U.S. planes were only "steel and concrete" and "not human life", the Pentagon alleged that they had tried their best to cause casualties among the population, and that if they want to harm them they can use more effective weapons. While the world questions goes on sternly condemning the U.S. Air Force striking at factories and residential quarters inside Hanoi on May 5, days after bombing and strafing the outskirts of this city, the U.S. military spokesman in Saigon stated that

counted 72 injured and was told that 13 had died on the way to, or when reaching, the hospital. The Australian journalist also reported that 53 children under 15 years of age had been killed, and that among the wounded there were 65 women, boys and girls. He pointed out that American planes had dropped 50 tons of bombs and incendiary bombs, missiles and hundreds of rockets and released many explosive bombs.

Very clearly, when the aggressive attack against civilian populations and densely populated quarters in urban centres, C.B.U.'s are used in combination with explosive bombs and incendiary bombs in order to kill the civilian population. Spread on factories and residential quarters, these planes produce a destructive effect. Instead in large quantities they cause considerable casualties and after bombing the population and according to the U.S. can impair the people's morale. So, the Pentagon's allegation that the American planes had utilized C.B.U.'s such as transports vehicles, aircraft on the fields, aircraft carriers, ships and anti-aircraft nests, are the cheapest and the most effective anti-personnel weapon.

Such a barbaric act of war can only be blamed on the bombing of Hanoi. As we have reported, on April 25, 4 explosive bombs weighing 25 kg each fell on the Loi village (Hanoi periphery) together with 12 C.B.U.'s, projecting 7,000 rounds of bombs in its hamlets, i.e. more than one of them for each inhabitant. This was one among the most typical raids against the D.N.R. capital on April 25, 26, 27 and

(continued page 6)

in Guern, ANZUS and SEATO made French and Pakistan in their own held conferences. The "Seven", i.e. those countries with troops participating in the American war in South Vietnam, also met. The same thread runs through all this seeming diversity: the intensification of the war, the U.S. imperialists are not even tried to cover this up.

In South Vietnam, now American reinforcements have begun to arrive to support military victory and turn the tide of the war. To attain this end, he threw everything at once, with all his might, on one hand, to ensure success for big "search and destroy" operations, and on the other, to impose a political solution: "pacification".

In North Vietnam, American war escalation has suffered a series of setbacks, with every passing day. As to the Vietnamese people, they carry on, undaunted, their heroic task: to produce and to fight.

In the *Wall Street Journal*, it is clear that the U.S. government is not only in order to cover up its war plans. It wants neither peace nor negotiations. It believes it could get out of the Vietnamese war with a minimum of a military solution, by means of its military strength. Let it be known: Vietnamese people are not to be beaten only after victory. They will inevitably defeat American aggression.

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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGES

TO LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL
LONDON

tulations and sincere wishes for good success

The opening of the first session of the International Tribunal bears a profound significance, especially at a time when the American imperialists are intensifying to the utmost their war escalation, striking at Haiphong port and Hanoi, our capital. It is a powerful encouragement not only for us, Vietnamese people, but also for all the peoples fighting for national independence, freedom and peace.

The noble work of the International Tribunal, warmly approved and supported by the progressive mankind, however, has met and will still meet with numerous difficulties and obstacles created by the American imperialists and the reactionary forces. But I am convinced that the people of the world will persevere in their peace and justice-loving ways to carry through its work. It is certain that all the peace- and justice-loving peoples and persons in the world will be on their side and will support them wholeheartedly.

We convey our sincere thanks to all the members of the International Tribunal in War Crimes in Vietnam for their warm support of the just war of resistance of our people.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my very high consideration.

HO CHI MINH

MESSAGE OF MR. NGUYEN HUU THO
PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH
VIETNAM N.F.L. TO B. RUSSELL
INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

On the occasion of the session in Sweden of the International Tribunal to try the U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Vietnam on behalf of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, I convey to you my warmest wishes.

Like all the other peace- and justice-loving peoples, the South Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this event of historic significance and regard it as an active contribution to the cause of our patriotic resistance against American imperialism and an important contribution to the common struggle of the progressive mankind for peace, national independence and justice the world over.

We once again sincerely thank Lord Bertrand Russell, initiator, as well as the prominent personal members of the Tribunal and all our dear friends who, in spite of all the obstacles posed by American imperialism, have wholeheartedly worked for the noble goals of the Tribunal.

We also avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our Swedish friends who have actively contributed to this undertaking of particular significance.

Please accept my best wishes for brilliant success.

NGUYEN HUU THO

"bombs". (translated from the French).

And this crime of crimes: an open, cynical, barbarous aggression against people living in a country located more than 10,000 kilometers from the United States which is a threat to U.S. security. It is the brazen-faced use of violence by a great power which arrogantly and with total indifference in the affairs of other peoples, merely because it has all its disposal, which believes in empty mind. War does not invent that in order to be just, one must have no conviction. The majority of the Tribunal's members, the peoples' conscience be moved to the point of realizing that it is a criminal offense to perpetrate horrible crimes.

At a time when weapons have become more and more destructive, conventional and especially recognized by international law, have sought to limit the effects of weapons on the civilian population, blow dykes in the Netherlands, se Oradour and Lidice after, respectively, the bombing and the repelling up millions of people who opposed him in concentration camps where they were destined to death.

A noble-hearted man, a scientist and philosopher of world repute, Lord Bertrand Russell, launched the setting up of an International Tribunal to try the war crimes perpetrated by American imperialists in Vietnam. This was well heard in all countries, in all continents: eminent writers, scientists, university professors, journalists from France, Japan, Sweden, Italy, Latin America, Yugoslavia, etc. and the United States, have joined with Lord Bertrand Russell in setting up an international tribunal, which can be a guarantee of a just trial of the war crimes committed by the American imperialists in Vietnam.

The Tribunal is not a State: it has no material power to impose its will on the aggressor, from the personality of its members, men of conscience and science, who passionately oppose American imperialism and its barbarous aggression in Vietnam. It is because it is part and parcel of the war of resistance of all the Vietnamese people that the aggressor has aroused deep interest in the world. It is because its promoter, Lord Bertrand Russell, has taken the beginning position right from the beginning that he has rallied world opinion. Says he:

Says Lord Bertrand Russell:

"I do not claim that the people invited to sit on the tribunal have the same opinion on the war in Vietnam. It is precisely because they are divided that it is precisely because they are divided that the spot the damage caused by American bombing, and see the victims. Reports presented by the various commissions have supplied irrefutable proofs of American crimes.

Dossiers have been prepared

NUREMBERG FOR VIETNAM

on the following five main principles:

1. Crime of aggression, with violation of international agreements;

2. Use of experimental weapons, gas, toxic chemicals;

3. Bombings of hospitals, schools, dykes and others civilian objects;

4. Torture and mutilation of prisoners;

5. Policy of genocide, taking South Vietnam the form of concentration camps, mass inhumations, and other extermination techniques.

The Tribunal's authority lies also and mostly in the fact that it has taken a just position, a position not a simple manifestation, and of the multiple aspects of the powerful struggle waged by all the progressive forces of the United States and its barbarous aggression in Vietnam. It is because it is part and parcel of the war of resistance of all the Vietnamese people that the aggressor has aroused deep interest in the world. It is because its promoter, Lord Bertrand Russell, has taken the beginning position right from the beginning that he has rallied world opinion. Says he:

"It is an imperialism of prey that we are dealing with. Northern Vietnam is a country of cruelty and less mercy than in Vietnam. Chemical arms, gas, phosphorus and napalm bombs, concentration camps, forced labour, concentration camps, torture, etc. have been employed by U.S. imperialism in Vietnam. Crimes, clinics, asylums, hospitals, schools, and villages have been mercilessly bombed to saturation with incendiary

the Vietnamese were to lose more than half of their independence, the United States would be encouraged to think that aggression pays, and that aggression is a way to dominate continents. At present I am opposing American aggression with this same firmness. It is part and parcel of the war of resistance of all the Vietnamese people that the aggressor has aroused deep interest in the world. It is because its promoter, Lord Bertrand Russell, has taken the beginning position right from the beginning that he has rallied world opinion. Says he:

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REOUNDING VICTORIES OF THE L.A.F. IN QUANG TRI

- **G.I.s and Puppet Troops Heavy Defeats in Quang Tri. At Khe Sanh the L.A.F. Wiped Out 1,800 Enemies (Including 1,500 G.I.s) Between April 24 and May 5.**
- **At Con Tien, Doc Mieu, Dong Ha and on Hill 241 1,000 Enemy Soldiers Were Put Out of Action (Including 600 G.I.s) on May 7.**

After the resounding victories of April 24, the Americans and their puppet troops in various positions and towns in Quang Tri and Thua Thien (April 5 and 6, 1967) the Americans must feel the pinch of the 10th Light Infantry Brigade of the First Airmobile Cavalry division and a brigade of the 9th Infantry Division, to reinforce two more divisions in dire straits in this theatre of operations.

In spite of this reinforcement, Lt. Gen. L. Walt kept on asking for one more division because only 14,000 out of his 20,000 marines could be fielded (Reuters, May 7). He was right on this score.

Khe Sanh, a bomb-shaped area with hills 881, 886 and many others, the Highway 9 defended by one U.S. marine company supported by puppet ranger companies

was encircled by local guerrillas since mid-April.

On the evening of April 24, a ranger unit on patrol during an ambush, a company detachment sent to its rescue lost nearly 40 men. The next day, 72 others were killed and wounded when operating north-west of Khe Sanh.

On April 26, the Americans had to bring in reinforcements from Dong Ha, Ta Lam and Cua together with 3 U.S. marine companies (freshly coming from Okinawa after being stranded in Japan) to avenge a sound defeat in South Vietnam to reinforce the Khe Sanh garrison. 154 more Americans were wiped out including a colonel.

On April 27, an enemy unit, the 10th Light Hill 881 lost 100 men. The Americans had to call off all

operations and ask for air and artillery support (April 27 and 28).

Then on April 29, a battalion of the 10th Marine Regiment began attacking Hill 881. Though meeting a weak resistance as U.P.I. said on May 5, it was not until 2:35 p.m. that the Americans reached the hilltop just to receive a deluge of fire from the L.A.F. The ill-fated unit had to withdraw with two casualties.

The second battalion on assault to the north also suffered heavy losses and fell back.

According to U.P.I. (May 7) the marines on Hill 881 could do anything this evening but curse and die, as was the case of any ambushed unit.

On May 1, in the flurry of their successes, the L.A.F. stormed Khe Sanh, killed

over 200 Americans and wounded many others.

As the G.I.s were in the defensive at Khe Sanh, on May 4, the L.A.F. attacked Vinh village. After 40 minutes of fighting, all the puppet commando companies fed by 12 Americans were wiped out, the position was razed to the ground and all the petrol and ammunition depots burnt to ashes.

In the meantime, the battle at Khe Sanh went on fiercely until the G.I.s were driven out, the L.A.F. wiped out 1,800 enemy soldiers (including 1,500 G.I.s); 6 companies and 3 puppet companies put out of action.

The L.A.F. continued to attack Khe Sanh on May 5, at 1:40 a.m. at Con Tien. Thanks to the assistance of the local population and a number of patriotic elements in the local population, the L.A.F. waged a hand-to-hand fight and killed 600 G.I.s and puppet troops, wounded and captured many others: they were buried in the ground, in trenches and stores. An enemy company freshly landing in a locality 24 km northeast of Con Tien was routed by the guerrillas; 40 soldiers were killed.

In co-operation with the Con Tien battle, on the night of May 7, the L.A.F. hamstrung at enemy posts in Doc Mieu, Con Tien, Dong Ha and an artillery emplacement on Hill 241. Nearly 300 G.I.s were put out of action at Dong Ha and on Hill 241.

According to initial reports nearly 1,000 enemies (including 600 G.I.s) were wiped out in these areas. If the Khe Sanh battle is included, 2,800 enemies (including 2,000 G.I.s) were put out of action in all.

SOUTH VIETNAM

N. F. L.

Activities

MAY 2, the Commission for External Relations of the C.I.A. and the South Vietnam N.F.L. issued a statement protesting against the Indonesian authorities for having sent troops, police and hooligans to encircle the Chinese embassy in Jakarta and unjustifiably expel the Chinese chargé d'affaires and the Chinese consul-general in Djakarta, and regarding this as a violation of the principles governing international relations and a sabotage of the friendly relations between the peoples of China and Indonesia.

RECENTLY, the General Association of Cambodian students sent a letter to the South Vietnamese Students' Union condemning the acts committed by Park Ju-ho in Blanh Son and Son Tinh districts (Quang Ngai) and expressing full support for the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese people including students. On behalf of the South Vietnamese students' organisation, Tran Bui Kien sent a letter of thanks in which he praised the firm will of the Cambodian people including students, to oppose imperialism and colonialism.

THE South Vietnamese Liberation Youth Federation has recently sent a message to the Netherlands General Youth Union, expressing thanks for the approval and support which you give for the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese youth and others against U.S. aggression.

May Day demonstration in Saigon against the U.S. and South Vietnamese

CORNEL
UNIVERSITY

JUN 1 1967

At the "Congress of anti-U.S. Fighters" in South Vietnam, Tran Thi Hang called the attention of everybody. "Aged 23, this young woman, a widow, had had a pretty face, a fair complexion, and a slender figure. The fresh broadside round her neck testified to her courage.

Hang lived in a sandy area at the sea-side. In vain had American and puppet troops come there for "sweeps" to check the guerrilla movement and the people's political struggle. They stopped at nothing to seek out local military and political organisations.

One day, thousands of U.S. "marines" supported by planes and armoured vehicles raided Hang's village. Guerrilla teams, among them Hang's 3-man group, laid mines and snipers at the enemy. Scores of G.I.s were killed or wounded.

On the small village tons of bombs and shells were dumped.

The fighting was particularly fierce on the flank defended by Hang's group. The enemy attacked it wave after wave.

Hang and her two comrades — two men — were ordered to withdraw and harass the Americans in the night. Hardly had the orders been given when the enemy came and forced them to seek shelter.

The assailants found the entrance to the underground gallery and started digging.

Sand poured on the three guerrillas' hair. Some rays of sun dazzled them. The safety pins of their grenades off, they were ready for action.

YOUNG MILITIAWOMAN TRAN THI HANG

They clearly heard the deep voices of some G.I.s and a puppet thief.

Hardly had the cover of the underground had been left when grenades were thrown. Four Americans were killed on the spot and three others wounded.

A few minutes later, the G.I.s riposted by pouring down grenades. Both militiamen were seriously wounded. Hang was hit in the head. She fell into the underground and left to her and thought of committing suicide. But she said to herself: "No suicide. This grenade is for the Americans."

Some G.I.s crept forward. For security's sake, they hurled down some more grenades.

All of a sudden, about broke out from the bottom of the pit:

"Long live President Ho Chi Minh!"

"Long live the South Vietnamese N.F.L."

A young woman, red with blood, jumped out. Some more grenades exploded. Some more G.I.s were hit. Exhausted, Hang also collapsed on the ground.

A group of American soldiers swarmed round her. One of them dragged her along by her hair. The torture began. She uttered no word.

A GI put his dagger against her chest. She clenched her teeth, staring at him. He pressed on the wound and drew it down to the belly. She remained silent. The mercenary suddenly gave way. He stood up, staggered and dropped his dagger. He fell to the ground.

When Hang came to, she felt a violent pain in every part of her bandaged body, particularly in her belly. Her hair had been cut short. Every time when she breathed, her neck ached and bled.

She knew why the enemy was tending her in this hospital: they hoped to get information from her.

She thought out a plan. Recovering slowly from her wounds, she began to exhale. When left alone, she trained herself to walk.

One day as they thought she was still too weak to leave her sick bed, she escaped and returned to her fighting post.

